

I. Amendments To The Claims

1. - 61. (previously canceled)

62. (currently amended) An isolated ~~polypeptide~~ **fusion protein of IFNAR2** comprising **(1) the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 and (2) a human immunoglobulin-constant domain**, wherein the affinity of said ~~polypeptide~~ **fusion protein** for IFN- β is synergistically increased **at least 25 to 100-fold** compared to wild type human IFNAR2.

63.-65. (previously canceled)

66. (canceled)

67. (currently amended) The ~~polypeptide~~ **fusion protein** of claim 62, wherein the affinity to IFN- β is at least 30 pM.

68. (currently amended) The ~~polypeptide~~ **fusion protein** of claim 62, wherein the affinity to IFN- β is at least ~~25 to 100-fold~~ **50-fold** higher than the affinity of the wild type polypeptide.

69. (canceled)

70. (currently amended) The ~~polypeptide~~ **fusion protein** of claim 62, wherein the ~~polypeptide~~ **fusion protein** is covalently bound to IFN.

71. (currently amended) The ~~polypeptide~~ **fusion protein** of claim 70, wherein the IFN is IFN- β .

72. (previously canceled)

73. (previously canceled)

74. (previously canceled)

75. (canceled)

76. (currently amended) A DNA encoding the ~~polypeptide~~ **fusion protein** of claim 62.